

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02504 191634Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 AID-05 /016 W
-----191638Z 010007 /46

O 191601Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2734

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2504

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAID SY US
SUBJ: ADDED U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 86725

1. SYRIAN CONCERNS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR SEVERAL WEEKS AGO RESULTED FROM UNUSUALLY DRY MONTH OF MARCH WITH PREDICTIONS OF SERIOUS DROP IN WHEAT AND BARLEY PRODUCTION IN SOUTH SYRIA. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL AND, ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE, VERY TIMELY RAINFALL IN THE PERIOD APRIL 10-16 THAT HAS CHANGED PREDICTIONS FOR THE BETTER. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SOURCES NOW ESTIMATE THAT PRODUCTION OF WHEAT AND BARLEY IN THE SOUTH WILL BE ABOVE AVERAGE AND THAT GRAIN PRODUCTION FOR ALL REGIONS, EXCEPT HASSAKEH, LOOKS OPTIMISTIC. PRIVATE BUSINESS SOURCES CORROBORATE THIS OPTIMISM.

2. SYRIA MAY NOT BE COMPLETELY OUT OF THE WOODS YET. A SUDDEN CHANGE IN WEATHER THIS MONTH, E.G., A FIVE-DAY KHAMSIH WHICH WOULD NOT BE UNCOMMON COULD CUT DEEPLY INTO GRAIN PRODUCTION. AGATT BELIEVES THAT IF WE GET THROUGH REMAINDER OF MONTH WITHOUT SERIOUS WEATHER PROBLEMS OUTLOOK IS GOOD FOR GRAIN AND OTHER AGRI-CULTURAL PRODUCTION. UNTIL THEN, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, TO MAKE ANY FIRM PREDICTIONS ON PRODUCTION LEVELS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC02504
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770135-1217
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770444/aaaablqk.tel
Line Count: 56
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9bf3b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 86725
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2767860
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDED U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, SY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9bf3b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009